

Appln. No. 09/403,861
Amd. dated June 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled)

41(Currently amended). A glucocorticoid-induced leucine-zipper family related (GILR) protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity, wherein said GILR protein:

(a) is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

(b) contains no more than [[ten]] five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, each of said changes being either alternative conservative substitutions within one of the following five groups of amino acid residues:

- (1) Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro, Gly;
- (2) Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;
- (3) His, Arg, Lys;
- (4) Met, Leu, Ile, Val, Cys; and
- (5) Phe, Tyr, Trp

or deletion of one or more of residues 123, 124, and 125 of SEQ ID NO:2.

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Claims 42-45 (Cancelled).

46(Previously presented). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim 41.

47(Previously presented). A chemically modified GILR protein of claim 41, wherein said GILR protein of claim 41 is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

48(Previously presented). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 47.

Claims 49-52 (Cancelled).

53(Previously presented). The GILR protein of claim 41, which is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 54-56 (Cancelled).

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57 (Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim [[56]] 41, wherein said no more than five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 are present at amino acid residue positions selected from the group consisting of residue positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, and 128 of SEQ ID NO:2.

58 (Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim [[54]] 41, which contains no more than three amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

59 (Previously presented). The GILR protein of claim 58, wherein said no more than three amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 are present at amino acid residue positions selected from the group consisting of residue positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, and 128 of SEQ ID NO:2.

60 (Currently amended). The GILR protein of claim [[54]] 41, which contains a single amino acid change from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

61 (Previously presented). The GILR protein of claim 60, wherein said single amino acid change from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 is present at an amino acid position

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selected from the group consisting of residue positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 123, 124, 125, 127, and 128 of SEQ ID NO:2.

62(New). A glucocorticoid-induced leucine-zipper family related (GILR) protein capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity, wherein said GILR protein contains no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, each of said changes being either alternative conservative substitutions of amino acid residue positions selected from the group consisting of residue positions 22, 50, 75, 84, 112, 122, 127, and 128 of SEQ ID NO:2 within one of the following five groups of amino acid residues:

- (1) Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro, Gly;
- (2) Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;
- (3) His, Arg, Lys;
- (4) Met, Leu, Ile, Val, Cys; and
- (5) Phe, Tyr, Trp,

or deletion of one or more of residues 123, 124, and 125 of SEQ ID NO:2.

63(New). The GILR protein of claim 62, wherein said alternative conservative substitutions of amino acid residue positions are selected from the group consisting of residue positions 50, 75, 84, 122, and 128.

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64(New). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the GILR protein of claim 62.

65(New). A chemically modified GILR protein of claim 62, wherein said GILR protein of claim 62 is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

66(New). A composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 65.